(b) and (c) The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to the State to conduct the BPL Census in the beginning of every Five Year Plan to identify the poor households in the rural areas who could be targeted for assistance under the various programmes of the Ministry. For the 10th Five Year Plan, BPL Census 2002 was conducted based on the methodology recommended by the Expert Group which was finalized after a wide range of discussions with the various stakeholders and the State Governments. The methodology for the BPL Census 2002 was a 'Score Based Ranking' of the BPL households and for this purpose 13 socio-economic parameters were prescribed which included size of operational holding of land, type of house, availability of clothes, food security, sanitation, ownership of consumer durables, literacy, status of labour force of the household, means of livelihood, status of children's education, indebtedness and reasons for migration etc. The main objective of this methodology was to prepare the BPL list based on comparative deprivation and transparency. The State Government have been provided adequate flexibility to determine the number of BPL households to account for local factors and situation. The guidelines also provide a two-stage appeal mechanism to redress the grievances of the people relating to their rank in the BPL list. The Government of Maharashtra has been accordingly requested to finalise the list so that poorest of the poor get the priority under the programmes.

Influential people getting benefits under SGSY

†2854. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that influential people and landlords in the villages ae getting more benefits under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have found this fact at their own level; and

(d) the State-wise details thereof for the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development conducted a concurrent evalution during 2002-03 to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

asses the SGSY programme implementation and to adopt mid course corrections, if necessary. This concurrent evaluation reported instances of a few ineligible people availing benefits under the scheme. These beneficiaries seem to be mostly of the non-BPL category.

(b) and (c) The programme has been seen to be successful in reaching the targeted groups, though a few instances of ineligible people availing the benefits have been reported in the concurrent evaluation. The evaluation indicates that about 93% of the Swarojgaries belogn to the BPL families and as high as 83.51% of the total individual swarojgaries were of the opinion that SGSY activities have helped them in increasing their incomes. The concurrent evaluation did not point out any specific cases, but the percentage of cush people getting benefits under the Swarnajayati Gram Swarojgar Yojana is assumably very small. These findings have emerged in the Government sponsored study only.

(d) No data relating to the percentage of such ineligible people has been provided in the concurrent evaluation conducted during 2002-03.

Private Participation for Employment Opportunities in rural areas

2855. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether private participation has helped in creation of more employment opportunities in the rural areas;

(b) whether Government have held any formal consultations with the private sector in this matter, while extending concessions to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the possible avenues identified by Government where private participation could help to create more employment oppotunities in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has approved two special projects for generation of self-employment with private participation. The areas covered by these projects and the details of concessions/facilities offered to the private sector for these projects are indicated below:-